

FALL 2009 Issue No. 87

BENTRIM BUGLE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION



**MMBA ANNUAL
MEETING & EXPO**

BRB GOING DIGITAL

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POTO CHAPTER GRANT



IN THE PEDALARIAN PARADISE OF PORTLAND, OREGON, PEOPLE WANT AFFORDABLE COMMUTER BIKES THAT RIP. KONA FACTORY TEAM RIDER AND SELLWOOD CYCLE OWNER ERIK TONKIN TOLD US SO. WE'VE BUILT HIM A FRAME IN THE PAST, BUT THIS YEAR HE GETS THE FULL RIDE. CHROMOLY FRAME, DURA-ACE DOWNTUBE SHIFTERS, CITY SPEED COME TO LIFE. GET DOWN WITH THE NEW

2009 HONKY TONK

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The Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA) is a 501-(C)(3) non-profit organization. We have 1,600 members in nine chapters throughout Michigan. The mission of the MMBA is to promote responsible mountain biking and to work toward the goals of common land access and natural resource protection through interaction with policy makers, the cycling industry, race promoters, mountain bikers and other trail users. The Bent Rim Bugle is published four times a year (March, June, Sept, Dec.) by the Michigan Mountain Biking Association and distributed to all members. It is made possible by volunteers and riders like you.

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BRB Information

The Bent Rim Bugle (BRB) began over 15 years ago. Back then, the Michigan DNR was on the verge of closing all state land to mountain bikes. The BRB was the means for organizing the state's off road cyclists to work for continued access.

Today the BRB still carries the torch for off road advocacy, it has become the official newsletter of the MMBA. Published quarterly, the BRB keeps the MMBA membership up to date on what's happening throughout the State.

Contributing articles, artwork, and photos

If it's about mountain biking, please send it in. Electronic submissions should go to brb@mmba.org. We prefer documents in Microsoft Word, or simple text. Photos should be in jpg format and at least 300 dpi.

Advertise in the BRB

The Bent Rim Bugle offers inexpensive and targeted advertising which helps with the cost of producing this cool newsletter. Contact us at brb@mmba.org for more info and ad rates.



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This Is Your Last Printed Issue!

This is the last printed edition of the *Bent Rim Bugle*. Subsequent issues of the *Bent Rim Bugle* will be available for download at <http://www.mmba.org>.

Notifications of new issues will be sent via email.

The change to the electronic *Bent Rim Bugle* is being made for several reasons: to eliminate the storage and waste of extra issues, to reduce publication costs, and to provide content in a timely fashion.

Things You Must Do

It is important to update your information with the MMBA to ensure that you will receive the electronic issues of the *Bent Rim Bugle*. Follow these steps to view the information you have on file with us and to make any corrections:

- 1) Go to <http://membership.mmba.org/member.php> (bookmark this page)
- 2) Type in your username and password (should be the same as your forum login) and click "Login." If you have trouble logging in, contact membership@mmba.org.
- 3) In the right-hand column, under the heading of "Useful Links," click on "Change Password/Edit Profile."
- 4) Verify that the information provided is correct. The email address must be correct in order for you to receive the electronic issues of the *Bent Rim Bugle*. If any changes are made, click the "Save Profile" button at the bottom of the page.

While you are logged into your account, you can see when your membership is up for renewal, renew that membership, and view previous newsletters.

The *Bent Rim Bugle* was published twice in 2009 and will resume a quarterly schedule in 2010.

Cover photo by Hans Nyberg/Ten Mile Media



Welcome the last print edition of the Bent Rim Bugle. Look further into the issue to update your contact information so you can stay on top of the latest MMBA news and look for us on Facebook, Twitter @mmbaed, and of course the webisodes.

As I am writing this I am basking in the glory that I was able to pull off my first Thanksgiving dinner. There were sometimes all six of us working together, basting, peeling, mixing, and of course tasting. After hours in the kitchen, everyone sat down to the meal we all helped prepare. We pulled it off with the only causality of the night was a little 2nd degree burn and the rolls managed to blacken on the bottom and doughy on top. We sweated, bickered, chopped, and swung big sharp instruments... a lot like building trails, except in place of a one afternoon of gluttonous eating, the MMBA is building trails that can be used by trail users of all walks of life, and as an Executive Director I couldn't be prouder.

I often have a birds eye view of what is happening for mountain biking in the state, but much of my work is done from behind the computer screen and working as a representative of the MMBA. Over the few months it has been such a joy to meet members from across the state at events and chapter meetings. I have trekked from Grand Rapids to Midland to Rochester to Lansing up to Traverse City and I am always so encouraged by the enthusiasm and commitment from the membership. I want to thank everyone that is on the ground and getting dirty and continuing to represent the MMBA in such a positive manner.

Thank you to all the volunteers out there and continue to keep the rubber to the ground. And when you are sweating in the kitchen or on the trail this Holiday give a little toast to your friends in the kitchen and your friends on the trail.

-Marne

Volunteers needed

Annual meeting and expo committee members needed. The expo will once again be in the Lansing area, but you do not have to be in Lansing to volunteer for this committee. We are looking for assistance with the si-

From the Desk of the Executive Director

lent auction, working with vendors, working at the expo, bringing in a speaker, coordinating the dirt demo, and bringing advocacy ideas to the table and much more. We can curtail things to your schedule and skills.

Merchandise Coordinator - Help manage our merchandise, coordinate and oversee the fulfillment process.

If you are interested in being involved with this endeavor please e-mail Executive Director at execdir@mmba.org

Legislation Update

Horse Bill- The House passed the bill on November 5th and has been referred to the Senate committee of Agriculture and Bioeconomy. The bill would require the Department of Natural Resources to allow pack and saddle animals (primarily, horses) to be ridden on "trailways" on any state-owned land where this use has been allowed since January 1, 1999, and to reopen lands that were closed to this use since that date. The DNR has strongly opposed to the bill and is concerned provisions in the bill could jeopardize \$24.8 million dollars in federal funding. The MMBA is opposed to this bill.

License Plate Bill- Senate Bills 388 and 389, were adopted with a vote of 24-11 and 23-12 respectively and has been referred to the Great Lakes and Environment committee. The final bill was pushed through on the "pure choice" method which means Michiganders will have to check a box "yes" or "no" to complete their registration.



Executive Director Marne Smiley at a House/Senate joint committee meeting. photo credit -Dan Eichinger

Mountain Kids keeping busy

The Mountain Kids trailer made an appearance at Sleepy Hollow State Park on the last week in July. The feedback was awesome and many of the kids said that the bike riding was the best part of the camp. Much thanks to Mike Gonyea and his son who led a number of rides on the first day. And kudos to Kevin's daughter, Shannon Karpinski, who helped out at the event both days and was a tremendous influence on the kids. She has great patience and the kids loved her. She rode in the front and in the rear as we always structured our rides that way. Thank you to Kevin Karpinski for leading the effort on this event and for throwing his hat in to become the Mountain Kids Director.

The trailer has been making the rounds this summer through DNR and YMCA programs throughout Michigan between Novi Tree Farm, the Riverhawk event at Proud Lake, the Ann Arbor YMCA mountain biking camp, and more. If you are interested in putting on an event, you can contact me at 734.730.0309.



Kids from Lansing Parks and Rec attending the Sleepy Hollow DNR Outreach kids camp yelling and pumping their fist saying "Always wear a helmet!" Photo credit- Kevin Karpinski



And none of this would be possible if it wasn't for South Lyon Cycles and our other sponsors that helped us get the program off the ground again when the trailer was stolen. Photo credit- Marne Smiley

2010 Annual MMBA Meeting & Expo

The details at a glance

Who: Anyone who uses knobby tires or wants to learn more about mountain biking

What: A gathering of mountain bikers from throughout Michigan

When: 9-4 p.m. on January 31, 2010

Where: MSU Pavilion in East Lansing

Why: Guest speaker, Dave Wiens, six-time winner of the Leadville 100; silent auction; question and answer with the MMBA leadership; and riding indoors!

Six-time Leadville 100 winner, Dave Wiens, of the *Race across the Sky* documentary, will be our guest speaker. Expo visitors will also be able to ride indoors. Look for the expo poster at your local shop!

This year, in lieu of the typical *First across the Finish Line* award, the MMBA will thank our volunteers with a free breakfast before the annual meeting.

Do you have questions? Do you want to know what is happening behind the scenes? Do you want to be more involved? We have answers. The MMBA leadership will give state and chapter reports as well as host a question-and-answer session for the membership, so you can address your concerns directly to the state board.

We will host the silent auction for a third year in row. We are revving up to make this year just as special as the last. We are pulling in items, but if you have any suggestions or would like to make a donation, be sponsor, or be in this year's expo, please contact Marne at execdir@mmba.org.



Calendar of Events

December 7th:

Western Chapter Meeting

December 12th:

Last day to submit State Board At-Large

Member nominations

December 12th:

Potawatomi Abominable Snowman Ride

December 13th:

Western Chapter Annual Holiday Ride

December 15th–20th:

Vote for State Board At-Large Members

January 31st:

MMBA Annual Meeting & Expo

February 13th:

Grand Rapids Bicycle Film Festival



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• CONNECT WITH FOLKS AT THE EXPO • LEARN ABOUT THE MMBA AND GET INVOLVED

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CONTACT MARNE SAILEY AT
execdir@mmba.org

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MMBA Chapter Chatter

Metro South

It's been a great year of riding in the Metro South Michigan area, even into November with the warm weather.

We have many groups to thank as the year comes to a close.

First of all, we would like to thank Dave Poirer who has been the Metro South Chapter Treasurer and Maybury Trail Coordinator for the past several years. We appreciate all of your hard work over the years, Dave.

Thanks to all of the trail coordinators for setting the trail days and coordinating the maintenance of the trails with our volunteers. Your many hours of trail work are what make our trails so much fun to ride!

Thanks to the Mountain Bike Patrol for their hours of service patrolling our trails and helping those with mechanical issues or injuries.

Thanks to the volunteers and organizers of the various Mountain Kids events that were held at our trails. The kids and families enjoyed the introduction to the sport. What a great way to get the next generation of mountain bikers ready to roll!

Thanks to the volunteers at the races held in our chapter: the Team Tree Farm Relay, the Maybury CPS race and the Cross race held at Fort Wayne and Maybury.

Thanks to those who served on 2009 Metro South Chapter board.

For 2010, we welcome the new board: Claudia Bean, President Dave Cox, Vice President Amanda Piling, Treasurer Wendy Cox, Secretary Dave Thomas, Chapter Representative.

We hope to see you at the expo on January 31, 2010.

We are also collecting suggestions for volunteer of year for our chapter. Please e-mail us at metrosouth@mma.org with your nomination and the reason for nominating this person.

Metro North Nick Shue

Metro North Chapter had a great fall with two successful events. The weather was perfect for our Addison Oaks race, and more than 300 people came out and enjoyed racing one of our chapter trails. Feedback on the event was very positive, and we look forward to our third year holding the race in 2010. The money raised for the chapter will

go toward tools to assist the chapter in trail-building efforts, as well as being used for trail improvements where possible.

On the other hand, Mother Nature wasn't as cooperative for the Massive Fallout, but we still had a few dozen brave riders come out and enjoy the trails. The warm chili and burgers that the Kresmery family had cooked up at Addison, as well as the space heater, was very popular with the riders. We look forward to both events in 2010.

The chapter trailer has been showing up at Metro North trail days and events and is a welcome addition to the chapter. Over the winter, we'll be finishing up stocking it with the needed tools and getting some graphics on the outside. Seeing the trailer at trail days and events helps get the word out about who works to provide all of the great Michigan trails for the riders.

Our next chapter meeting will include our chapter elections. Both nominations and the election will be taking place at the January 11 meeting, which will take place at the Rochester Mills Beer Co. As I have decided to step down as President, that position will be open. We will also be electing a fifth position, which will be State Board Representative. We have decided to split the duty of representing the chapter on the MMBA state board into a separate post. Make sure to attend and help shape our chapter.

Steve Kinley and Chris Worth have stepped down as Trail Coordinators at Addison Oaks, and we want to thank them for their help. Stepping up to take over are Bob Costello and Pete Kresmery. We want to thank them for volunteering.

Trail work has slowed as the weather gets cold, but this is the time of the year that planning for next year begins. Hopefully, you'll see the results of our planning in new sections of trail in the spring, possibly some work at some new trail systems too.

Northeast Chapter Thad Hallberg

The Northeast Chapter kept busy this fall preparing our trails for two events. The first event was the annual 30 Miles of Pain Haven. Jeff Adamcik organizes this race every September at Pine Haven Recreation Area in Sanford.

The second event was our first annual Take A Kid Mountain Biking Day at Midland City Forest. Both events were successful and fun.



Pain Haven contender John Billette and previous Pain Haven racer and future star, Lexi Mapes. Photo: Doug Fowler

Jeff and company laid out a great race course for the 30 Miles of Pine Have. It had all of the elements: tight singletrack, fast descents and leg burning climbs. Finding an elevation change in Midland County is not an easy task. Fortunately, Pine Haven delivers the goods. Be sure to add the Pain Haven race to your calendar next year. It is typically the last Saturday of September.



Pain Haven 3rd place finisher Travis Moser of Midland. Photo: Doug Fowler

The Deerfield Nature Park in Mt Pleasant now has a trail coordinator! Chris Maltby accepted this task. Check out their weekly group rides at 6 p.m. on Thursdays. Thanks Chris!

A proposal is in the works to improve the directional signage at many of the Northeast Chapter trails. We hope to implement these ideas for the 2010 season and keep our riders pointed in the right direction.



Eager youngsters ready to battle the less than ideal weather conditions at Midland City Forest.
Photo: Lori Hallberg

Northeast Chapter continued Two Boy Scout "Eagle Merit" projects were completed at the Midland City Forest. Matthew Zawisza completed phase one of the mountain bike skills park. His project included teeter-totters, skinnies, drop jumps, log piles and benches for onlookers. All were made from salvaged materials. Phase two falls into the hands of our chapter volunteers and will include a pump track, dirt jumps, and more skinnies and bridges for all skill levels. Rusty LaRose completed a kiosk structure at the main trailhead. Great job to both scouts, and congratulations on achieving your merits. Thanks also to Jim Crissman for his continued dedication to the Midland City Forest!

Steve Hoffman says that the 10.1-mile loop at the campus of Mid Michigan Community College keeps getting better as more riders break in the trail. MMCC trail is on high ground and can handle any rain storm or spring thaw. The college is considering further amenities for riders, is interested in hosting a race and is looking to establishing a student mountain biking club. Hats off to the MMCC Trail Coordinators Steve Hoffman and Vaughn Murray. We'd also like to thank all of the other volunteers who created this trail from nothing in only a few short weeks, as well as the blower brigade for clearing the abundance of leaves that dropped this fall. We will continue to hit this trail through the winter!



Western Chapter Rick Plite

The spring and summer of 2009 have certainly been busy for the Western Chapter. We started off the season with a successful Yankee Springs Time Trial and then immediately began working on the Midwest Mountain Bike Summit weekend, which was held on May 29-30. The three-day summit was great for sharing information, meeting new friends, and learning new trail-building techniques. The IMBA Trail Care Crew was there to give a two-day trail school with hands-on technical trail building demonstrations. Club Care and Gateway Trails presentations were also given. There were a few races and organized rides in and around the Cannonsburg Ski Area all weekend long. The Summit returns to Grand Rapids next year but looks to be a fall event. Stay tuned. Trail workdays are always a priority and we have had many.



The Midwest Mountain Bike Summit included a group ride at Luton Park.
Photo: Diane Ursu

Cannonsburg State Game Area received a couple of reroutes and work continues on a rock armored downhill. Many of these tasks take months to get approved with the DNR, so work is slow but steady. The same can be said for all trail work at Yankee Springs.

The Cannonsburg Ski Area has had a major reroute on a sandy, washed-out downhill and a bypass at the beginning of the Creek Trail where this year's high water table has created permanent wet spots.

Merrell joined the Western Chapter by holding a workday in conjunction with National Trails Day on June 6. Over 45 people attended the four-hour workday! They cut open 1.25 miles of brand new singletrack at Luton Park. Earlier in the year we held a very successful clean up day where volunteers hauled out 40 yards of scrap metal or trash from a farmer's dumping grounds. Luton Park now has over nine miles of singletrack!

Light seasonal work continues at Bass River where the unfortunately high water table has caused a wetter than normal year. Robinettes has received a serious trimming and some more confidence arrows to lead the way. Hungerford has received additional trimming and arrows thanks to some work from the Manistee National Forest and local volunteers.

The Western Chapter continues to explore options for more singletrack in Western Michigan and is currently investigating possibilities in Kentwood, Wyoming and Hardy.



Merrel and the Western Chapter held a National Trails Day event at Luton Park.
Photo: Diane Ursu

The Western Chapter will be holding a mountain bike race during the State Games of Michigan on June 25, 2010! These Olympic style games will include an XC race and perhaps a downhill race at the Cannonsburg Ski Area.



MMBA Chapter Chatter

Western Chapter continued

Upcoming events include:

-Voting for the 2010 Board positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President has closed. Congratulations Jason Schwab (Secretary), Dave Staublin (Treasurer) and Martin Hall (Vice President), and thank you for becoming involved!

- The 2010 Grand Rapids Bicycle Film Festival will be Saturday, February 13 at the Wealthy Theater. The Film Festival is a fundraiser for the 2010 Midwest Mountain Bike Summit. This year we are accepting video/film submissions from filmmakers and videographers. We will accept bike-themed independent short movies from around the world. Submissions are limited to eight minutes and must revolve around the central theme of cycling. All entries must be in by December 31, 2009. You must have rights to use the stuff in your submission, like the music, to be considered. Winning submissions will be announced in January. If your submission is over eight minutes, please contact Nate Phelps or Jeff Festian prior to submission.

- The Annual Holiday Ride will take place on December 13 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will start and finish from Founders Brewery. Plan to hit the road for a bit of urban street riding and stops for refreshments along the way.

- Next chapter meeting is December 7th at 6:30 p.m. at Mangiamos Restaurant, Lake Drive.

Potawatomi Chapter

Bill Mayer

Due to the trail inventory process at the Poto and Waterloo Recreation Areas, work remains limited to routine maintenance and safety maintenance until a state-approved trail plan is finalized.

Heavy rains took out a section of trail. Greg Cook was kind enough to design a reroute that is working out well. The DNR is seeking approval to boardwalk the root bridge section so that the trail is rideable during flooding.

Olson Park in Ann Arbor has a new Trail Coordinator - John Pogoncheff. John, with the help of some other great volunteers, has been doing some hard work to whip the Ann Arbor trail network into shape. Thanks guys!

Michael Connelly and Bob Hollen have done

a great job of keeping Hewens Creek mowed and are developing our new park at Rolling Hills. With a combination of meadows and woods, it promises to be fun riding. When construction is complete you will be looking

Mid-State Chapter Report: IMBA Trail Care Crew visits Lansing's Newest Trail

Chris Mensing

Over the 2009 Memorial Day weekend, Kelly and Collins Bishop with IMBA's Trail Care Crew visited Lansing to instruct our chapter on building sustainable trail and to help design and build segments of the area's newest trail, Anderson Park. Delta Township's Anderson Nature Park is located near the intersection of Waverly Road and I-496. While this park has been around for quite some time, it was completely undeveloped and received very little use. In the winter of 2007-2008, the Mid-State Chapter received approval from the township to begin construction of multi-user single-track with a mountain-bike focus. Our chapter has been hard at work building the trail system (currently close to 5 miles), but there were a few areas where we needed a little more expertise. In came IMBA and their Trail Care Crew to the rescue!



Collins and Kelly Bishop of the IMBA Trail Care Crew

Originally from Chattanooga, Tennessee, Kelly and Collins Bishop got tired of the 9 to 5 daily routine of the office and wanted something new to motivate them. Being long-time mountain bikers and cycling advocates, they joined the IMBA team as one of two Trail Care Crews. The IMBA Trail Care Crew program has spent the last 13 years working on over 1,000 projects in the U.S. and Canada and instructing more than 35,000 people how to build sustainable singletrack. In 2008 alone, IMBA Trail Care Crews visited 35 states and 2 Canadian Provinces.

The visit started on Friday afternoon when I joined Brad Potter (Anderson Park Trail Coordinator) and the Bishops on a walkthrough of the existing trail system. During our walkthrough, we identified two areas to work on over the weekend: a fast downhill berm and a long, gradual descent through some pine trees.

On Saturday, 14 people from as far away as Detroit spent the morning in a classroom setting learning about the trail design and techniques involved with building sustainable trail. After a few hours inside, we were all anxious to get dirty, so we headed outside to spend the afternoon working on the trail.

Most of our time was spent building the berm. This was a section that, early on, we knew could benefit from a berm, but we were unsure of how to build it while preventing water run-off from washing it away.

While a lot of dirt had to be moved, we were left with a fast, fun, and most importantly, sustainable berm. We then moved on to work on the second downhill portion. Half of the crew went with Kelly where she showed them how to design and layout a fun trail, while the other half went with Collins where we worked on some bench cutting.

Of course, the visit would not have been complete without grabbing a few beers at the local brew pub. Saturday evening, we met at the Michigan Brewing Company in Webberville for good food, good beer, and good conversation. The fun weekend came to a close on Sunday with a group ride, when we took a couple of laps of the trails.



IMBA Trail School participants at Anderson Park in Lansing

A big thank you goes out to IMBA, Subaru for fully funding the Trail Care Crew, Delta Township for the use of their meeting room, the Western Chapter for extra tools, and especially Anne Grovert and Dennis Pace who graciously gave up a portion of their house to give Kelly and Collins a small break from their usual hotel stay. We were very fortunate to have IMBA come out to our trail. If you have not been to Anderson Park, you are missing out on one of the area's newest and best trails!

Southwest Michael J. Needham
Greetings from the great Southwest.

First thing I want to do is to thank the volunteers that so selflessly give their time to the trails. For the trail day volunteer, this is a win-win situation. You not only get a warm, fuzzy feeling from your fellow trail users and volunteers, but you get particular enjoyment testing your own ideas and solutions. Many trail workers can't wait to test the day's work and see for themselves how much better that trail section can be.

Next I would like to recognize a particular volunteer. It's not that he hates manual labor – far from it. He just had this feeling he could do more. Let me start the story this way. It was a trail day at Fort Custer and the bright red 14-foot tool trailer was parked in the middle of the trailhead parking lot. It was quite conspicuous, even without the 10-foot MMBA logo on its sides. Nearby sat an easy-up, a table, a couple of chairs, a bike stand, a tool box, and a sign advertising free bike lube with MMBA memberships. OH! Yah! ...and smiling Ambassador Steve Wester.

Steve came up with this idea on his own and had tried signing up members at the trailhead once before. He thought he could break his own record of seventeen new

members. Well, the first trail day didn't go as well as planned. Steve tied his record and signed up another seventeen.

On the next two trail days, he exceeded his goal each time. Thanks to Steve Wester alone, the MMBA can count over 50 new memberships. Perhaps someone in your chapter could achieve this kind of success.

Ingredients:

- A friendly person to greet trail users and explain the MMBA to the trail user
- A symbol representing the MMBA commitment to trail work – not just advocacy.
- A gathering place. An easy up works well here.
- Furniture. Folding chairs and a table for sitting down and filling out an application.
- Paperwork, pens, application forms, a printout of calendar events containing the chapter officers phone numbers, the website address, the BRB, and some snack food.
- Bike tools and a pump.

In the past, the Southwest Chapter represented trail users in a separate organization

known as the Friends of Fort Custer. The Southwest Chapter provided a chairman, Mike Needham, and a secretary, Gordie Allen. The Southwest Chapter maintained a website and its costs. At the request of the land manager, meetings are limited to four from each user group.

One user group, the Fort Custer Horse Friends, typically shows up at meetings with more than the prescribed number. There are a few in this group who, unlike our hard working MMBA members, are not willing to contribute to the maintenance and preservation of our trail. This same group has no suggestions for cooperation or improvement of their relationship with fellow trail users; only a long list of expensive features they would selfishly add to the park at someone else's labor and expense.

Because of the stubbornness and poor treatment given to Gordie Allen, he has resigned his post on the committee and shut down the website. Mike Needham has made it clear that he will not attend any more useless meetings with certain horse friends. To my knowledge, Fort Custer is the only recreation area with multi-use trails. Any trail user group who fails to respect the trails and other user groups should be quarantined.



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Copper Harbor—It's Worth the Trip!

By Sam Raymond

The 2009 mountain bike season in Copper Harbor is sure to be one that's remembered. The Copper Harbor Trails Club (CHTC) notched several milestone accomplishments that will help to solidify its foundation and shape the future of our sport in Michigan's northernmost community.

CHTC Attends the Midwest Mountain Bike Summit

The season kicked off in April with several CHTC members attending the Midwest Mountain Bike Summit hosted by the MMBA Western Chapter in Grand Rapids. It was a great opportunity to put some MMBA members' faces with names, while getting to network with others from all across the Midwest who share the passion for mountain biking. Some workshops and presentations as to how other mountain bike clubs, organizations and associations have been able to accomplish great things and establish some excellent venues to ride provided some resourceful information. The Summit was topped off with some guided rides around Cannonsburg, good food, copious microbrews, great camaraderie, and resulted in plans to attend again in 2010.

CHTC Milestones

The CHTC launched a new business sponsorship package with more than twenty local businesses supporting the on-going efforts to build new trails, in turn which help to provide a positive impact on the area's tourist-based economy. New glossy, fold out, topographical maps were produced to complement the new cedar-post trail signs that have been erected over the past two seasons, making it more user friendly for riders to navigate. A primary trailhead and kiosk were established at the Copper Harbor Welcome Center, which now allows central access between the village and other principal trailheads at the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge, which is located more than two miles and 550 feet on the ridge above town.

After more than a year in the process, the CHTC officially became a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization in July. This represents a significant step forward that will greatly help the Club to accomplish its many goals set forth, as it will allow for individuals and corporate sponsors to support the club with tax-deductible contributions on a larger scale.

The CHTC realistically foresees that it will double the existing 25 mile singletrack trail system within the next five years, including a Lake Superior shoreline loop around the state-owned, uninhabited tip of Keweenaw Point.

Supporting plans being pursued include the purchase of a mechanized mini-excavator and the ability to hire a second, full time trail worker to take things above and beyond what the volunteer base is capable to accomplish on its own.

many riders echoing that it's

"the best trail they've ever

ridden, anyplace".

The Brockway Mountain Trail: Woopidy-Woo

The Woopidy-Woo Trail opened for business as the loop was connected in August, after more than a year in its making. This masterful, bench-cut 3-mile loop on the side of Brockway Mountain has become an instantly defining Copper Harbor trail, with many riders echoing that it's "the best trail they've ever ridden, anyplace".

With the high point in the middle, Woopidy-Woo rides great as a two-way trail from both directions, with subtle climbs and prolonged descents. Its burmed turns, scenic high-point overlooks and amazing flow makes you feel as if you're surfing through the forest on an endless wave, while all the time hootin' and hollering sentiments similar to its namesake...guaranteed to make you smile.



Copper Harbor Trail Coordinator, Aaron Rogers, enjoys the freeride section at Cannonsburg Ski Area during the Midwest Mountain Bike Summit. Photo: Diane Ursu



Curt Cline of Washburn, Wisconsin traverses the side of Brockway Mountain on the new Woopidy-Woo trail. Photo: Paul Belknap

Copper Harbor Fat Tire Festival

The 16th annual Copper Harbor Fat Tire Festival on Labor Day Weekend set a new attendance record with 343 racers from 11 states and Canada making the journey to be a part of what is one of the most challenging and most fun XC mountain bike races in the Midwest. At the same time, the festival is a laid-back, Copper Harbor-style, good-time, end of summer gathering of the tribe and is the largest annual fundraiser for the CHTC. Lots of positive comments were heard and the event only stands to continue to grow more into the future.

The top finishers of the Copper Harbor Fat Tire Festival were awarded with wheels made from birds-eye and curly maple. Left to right: Female 14-Mile winner Charil Reis of Rhinelander, Wisconsin, John Myland, Tony Schwenn, and Sam Raymond. Photo: Diane Ursu



IMBA Epic Trail

Perhaps the most exciting news was the designation of the Copper Harbor Trails as one of five new IMBA (International Mountain Bicycling Association) EPIC Rides across the entire country in October. Now one of only 48 such Epics in the world, the Copper

Harbor Trails are now considered by IMBA to be some of the best of the best!

This is the first Epic Ride designation for any trail in the U.P., and only the second in the entire state (the High Country Pathway is the

If you talk with any riders who have been here, you won't be disappointed; and, as the slogan has it, "It's worth the Trip!"

first). The club plans to utilize this designation to its advantage over the winter and heading into the start of the 2010 season, as it stands to gain more awareness and support on the local, regional and statewide levels as a result.

Working in association with IMBA, the CHTC plans to launch a major fundraising campaign that will help to lay the ground work to commence work on the approximately 25-mile Keweenaw Point Loop as soon as 2011. Stay tuned for further details to be announced over the winter about a Copper Harbor Epic Ride-In event sometime early next season. Information will be posted at www.copperharbortrails.org.

While it is off the beaten path, you owe it to yourself as a mountain biker living in Michigan to get up to Copper Harbor to ride. If you talk with any riders who have been here, you won't be disappointed; and, as the slogan has it, "It's worth the Trip!" In the meantime, let it snow!!!

The MMBA Welcomes Bonnie Walworth



MMBA - How long have you been riding?

I started riding in 2003.

MMBA - How long have you been a MMBA member?

I believe it was 2004 .

MMBA - What is your background as an archivist position?

I have a Masters Degree in Library and Information Science from Wayne State University with a specialization in Archives Administration, am a Certified Archivist, and have 18-years of experience working in libraries and archives, 8 of those years were managing records for the Ford Motor Company Archives.

MMBA - What do you hope to accomplish as the Archivist?

I hope to develop a simple and easy-to-understand system for organizing and managing MMBA electronic records and providing all members access via the MMBA website. Additionally I hope to identify and preserve key records which will document important accomplishments of the organization and tell its story over time.

MMBA - What is your favorite trail?

Hard to pick a favorite - all the Oakland County trails are great - each one has its own character and each one is fun in its own way. A few favorites are Murray Lake/Torn Shirt, Island Lake, Milford, Highland.

Important Changes in Voting for State At-Large Members

Some important changes regarding the timing and process of voting for the State Board At-Large Members are now in effect. The following is a guide to familiarize you with the new changes and to tell you how you can update your information with the MMBA.

Nominations Are Being Accepted until December 12th

Nominations for the State Board At-Large Members are now being accepted. You can request to be placed on the ballot by submitting a "Bio" with the following information to the nomination committee at simse@ntcna.nissan-usa.com

- Applicant's history and accomplishments with the MMBA.
- What the applicant would like the MMBA to achieve in the following year and how the applicant will help the MMBA to achieve that goal.
- Other MMBA members who are familiar with the applicant's work, preferably a chapter officer or trail coordinator.

Any active and respected candidates will then be placed on the ballot and the bios will be placed on the MMBA website. Any questions should be directed to simse@ntcna.nissan-usa.com

New Electronic Voting

The process for elections has also changed. Members will be able to vote online from December 15 until December 20. Members may vote for candidates using one of three methods:

- The MMBA will send each member an email with a unique link to the voting ballot. This will allow each member to vote only once. Each link will be associated with an email address, so member email addresses must be updated in the system.
- MMBA members who cannot vote online have the option of voting by proxy. Members may fax their ballots to (248)488-3908. When faxing, please send an e-mail to simse@ntcna.nissan-usa.com to indicate that a fax has been sent. Members may also vote by proxy by sending their ballots to *Emil Sims, 15563 Merion Ct., Northville, MI 48168*.
- The ballot must contain the following items: Names of up to four (4) candidates , Your name—printed , Your name—signed.

New Two-Year Terms for State Board At-Large Members

Four (4) candidates will be appointed as the State Board At-Large Members for 2010. The two candidates with the most votes will be elected for two-year terms. The two candidates with the lowest number of votes will be elected for one-year terms. Starting with the December 2010 election, only two candidates will be elected to fill the expired terms, and all At-Large positions will be for alternating two-year terms.

Annual Meeting and Introduction of the State Board

The earlier election allows the new board directors to take their seat at the January meeting, elect a new executive committee, and to familiarize themselves with the process and current policies. The new voting method will also allow more members to vote for the state board members. These new changes have been implemented for a couple of important reasons. With the new election process in place, the new MMBA State Board will be introduced at the annual meeting. This meeting will also be an opportunity for the membership to discuss important issues with the board at a scheduled annual meeting with the membership.

Toyota Provides \$5,000 Grant to Poto Chapter

Submitted by: Kirstin Bohac / Poto Chapter Secretary

At a time when newspaper headlines are flooded with stories of economic downturn and cut backs, the Poto Chapter received a generous \$5,000 grant from Toyota in recognition of Poto Chapter member, Gary Anderson's volunteer efforts with the Morton-Taylor trails in Canton. "This is the biggest infusion of cash ever received by the chapter", says Poto Chapter President, Bill Mayer. For an organization that operates on a shoestring budget, having extra cash in the bank can make a big difference. As a result of the Toyota grant, the Poto Chapter was able to upgrade its inventory of trail maintenance tools to include a Bachtold brush mower, a Jari sickle bar brush mower, a weed whip, additional loppers and hand-saws, and best of all, a trailer to haul the tools.

Below is an interview with Poto Chapter member, Gary Anderson.

Gary has worked at Toyota for 15 years as a senior assembly technician in the Technical Center in the Prototype Development department. He was nominated by an engineering manager for Toyota's Community Stars Volunteer Award. This annual award is given to five Toyota employees who donate their time and energy to benefit their community outside of work. Cynthia Mahalak of External Affairs at Toyota Motor Engineering and Manufacturing N.A. explained that Toyota is committed to being involved locally in the communities where they are located. Mahalak said, "It was great to see Gary receive this year's award and honor his efforts for something we all know he is passionate about...cycling."

When did you become involved with the MMBA and why?

I joined the MMBA Poto chapter in 1992 because I wanted to be involved and informed with this dynamic organization and what it does for riders. I always made it a point to show up at two to three trail maintenance days a year and donate 10 to 15 hours.

When was the Morton-Taylor trail created and why?

The Morton-Taylor trails are within the Lower Rouge River Recreation Area which is on Wayne County/Canton Township property. The citizens of Canton were asking for out-



Photo: Bill Meyer and Gary Anderson whose volunteered efforts garnered the grant.

door recreational trails, so the township developed several miles of crushed/packed gravel multi-use pathways with a parking lot, signage and soon many wooden bridges that will cross the Rouge River. This project started in 2006-2007.

Why did you get involved with this trail?

I saw an article in a local newsletter asking for volunteers to help out with the trail system doing various tasks, and I attended one of the early planning meetings. I noticed that there were no plans for any singletrack mountain biking trails. At the end of the meeting, I approached the Parks & Rec. manager, told him that I was a MMBA member and asked if he would be interested in me heading up an effort to do so. He said yes and within a few weeks, I met with the two township engineers responsible for the project and submitted a proposal of what I wanted to do. They gave me the green light, and I started working on laying out and cutting trails in December 2007.

I had always thought that Canton should have a trail and wanted to take this big challenge on using the experience I got from many trail days at the Brighton, Novi, Olson and Hewen's Creek trails.

How many hours did you devote? I have kept a very accurate log of my hours and they are as follows:

2007- 27 hours

2008 - 234 hours

2009 - 99 hours (as of June)

What makes the trail unique?

The trail is unique because it is the first MMBA built trail in the Plymouth/Canton area. It is bordered by many sub-divisions, and the system will eventually run from the center of Canton up to and just past the 275 bike path connecting many users with recreational possibilities and a trail that they can ride to and from their homes.

What were some of the challenges you faced? Rewards?

The challenges I faced were many hours of hard work with minimal volunteer assistance and unexpected maintenance to keep the trail clear until it gets more user traffic. Rewards - running into people on the trail that say they use it on a regular basis and really enjoy coming out there to exercise. I recently received an honor called the Community Achiever Award from Canton Township for my work.

Anything else you'd like to include?

I would like to include that people reading this should go to the trail guide, print the trail map in color in an 11 x 17 format, bring a little sense of adventure and go hike/bike it and help get it "ridden" in.

There are five to seven large wooden bridges that are, or have been, installed by the township that connect the various sections of the trail. There will be more single-track developed in the next year or two. Please come out and enjoy the system with your friends and family.

ABOVE & BEYOND MEMBERS

Lifetime Members \$500

Joseph R Blodgett Md
Ralf A Duersch
Alice I Gale & Michael Spaniolo
Anne Grofvert & Dennis Pace
Dennis Hansen
Dennis Jensen
Todd Scott
Irvin T Smith
Dick Steele
Leighton T Wood

Benefactor \$100 or more

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Neal Blatt
Andrew Caird
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Curtis Canaan
Peter Coles
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Art Fleming
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Lee Green Md Mph
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You can also join or renew online at
membership.mmba.org

First-time MMBA member? ☐

Name

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☐ I've enclosed a check payable to MMBA ☐ Bill my MasterCard or Visa

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Choose Chapter Affiliation ☐ Holly/Flint ☐ Metro North ☐ Metro South ☐ Mid-State ☐ Northeast ☐ Northern & U.P. ☐ Potawatomi ☐ Southwest ☐ Western

Personal Memberships

☐ Individual \$30
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☐ Benefactor \$100+
☐ Lifetime \$500

Commercial

☐ Basic \$75
☐ Bronze \$150
Additional corporate memberships/sponsorships are available. Call 248.288.3753 for details.

Lifetime memberships are for a 20-year period

Make checks payable to:

Michigan Mountain Biking Association
5119 Highland Road, PMB 268
Waterford, MI 48327

The MMBA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Donations are generally tax-deductible less the value of premiums received. The MMBA federal tax ID is 38-2913713.

Championship Point Series

Racing in a CPS event automatically enrolls you in the Championship Point Series. No sign-up is required. Visit mmba.org/racing for details.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

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www.escapeadventures.com

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269.731.3492
www.custercyclery.com

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248.290.0650
www.wolfhulbert.com

Copper Harbor

Keweenaw Adventure Co, LLC
906.289.4303
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Chain of Lakes Cyclery
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810.750.2348
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616.846.2800
www.rocknroadcycle.com

Granger, IN

Sportcrafters/Spin Zone
574.679.4057
www.sportcrafters.com

Grosse Pointe Woods

American Cycle & Fitness
248.960.1371
www.americancycleandfitness.com

Jackson

Pedal & Tour Cycling & Fitness
517.789.6362

Kentwood

Kentwood Schwinn Cycling & Fit
616.942.1880

Livonia

Cycle to Fitness
734.266.8203
www.cycletofitness.com

Macomb Township

American Cycle & Fitness
586-416-1000
www.americancycleandfitness.com

Muskegon

Breakaway Bicycles & Fitness
231.799.0008
www.breakawaybicycles.com

Okemos

Denny's Central Park Bicycles
517.349.8880
www.dennyscentralparkbikes.com

Plymouth

Trail's Edge Cyclery
734.420.1200
www.trails-edge.com

Pontiac

American Cycle & Fitness
248-333-7843
www.americancycleandfitness.com

Portage

Breakaway Bicycles and Fitness
269.324.5555
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www.rochesterbikeshop.com

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American Cycle & Fitness
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www.americancycleandfitness.com

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Cycletherapy Bicycles LLC
248.681.8600
www.ctbicycles.com

What We Do

Developing and Maintaining Trails

Our volunteers design, develop, and maintain trails across the State, working with every major recreation land manager. Within Southeast Michigan alone, the MMBA has designed, developed and/or maintains over 100 miles of off road trails.

Our trail design volunteers are trained by IMBA using standards developed by the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service. Trail design, development, and maintenance are performed by volunteers. These trails have a natural compacted soil surface. They use the natural features of the land, are sustainable, and minimize any effects on the nearby environment, including trees. They are designed to require minimal maintenance.

Promoting Proper Trail Use

We educate all users on proper trail use that is environmentally sound and socially responsible through our web site, newsletters, brochures, posters, emails, trail handbook, and word-of-mouth. We also host various ride clinics during the summer.

Involving Youth in Outdoor Recreation

Our Mountain Kids events focus on providing a positive outdoor recreational experience in a "backcountry" setting for children, ages 8-12, who wouldn't normally

have the opportunity to participate in such activities.

Our CPS Races also allow kids to build fitness and compete in a healthy, outdoors environment.

Helping Others on the Trail

We've partnered with IMBA to develop a National Mountain Bike Patrol in Michigan. Modeled after the National Ski Patrol, our volunteer patrollers are trained in first aid, CPR, and bike repair.

Encouraging More Woman Cyclists

We partner with the DNR and host an annual mountain bike clinic for woman at all levels. The clinic focuses on riding skills, bike repair, bike fitting, and nutrition. We're expanding this concept to monthly educational rides for women only.

Bringing Together Advocacy and Racing

The MMBA hosts a Championship Points Series, one of the most popular mountain bike race series in the U.S. Racers participate at venues across the State and throughout the summer, earning points based on their finishes. At the end of the year we recognize the top ranked individuals within the racing categories. This series serves as a fundraiser for trail development while exposing athletes to the advocacy side of the sport.



Michigan Mountain Biking Association

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